

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled and claim 6 has been amended to overcome the examiner's objection. Entry is requested.

In the Outstanding Office Action the examiner has objected to the drawings because they allegedly fail to show the claimed sound inlet opening at a wind noise protected location and the further transducer including a wind screen.

The applicants reply that Fig. 2 schematically depicts a further microphone 1a with a sound inlet opening at a wind noise protected location of the hearing aid, whereas claim 6 (which defines the further transducer as being provided with a wind screen) has been canceled. As such, the examiner's drawing objections should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Killion et al.

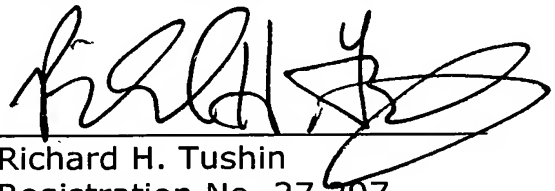
The applicants assert that this rejection cannot be maintained against remaining claim 6.

Killion et al. disclose the use of mechanical structure in the form of a wind screen in connection with existing microphone openings in order to avoid wind noise from entering a microphone opening. This, however, is not the structure defined in claim 6. In the vicinity of the hearing aid shell or casing variations in the experienced wind speed are expected such that in, e.g., behind the ear type hearing aids, a placement of the

microphone orifice under the hook will be less exposed to wind noise than if the opening is above the hook at the front of the hearing aid. According to the invention, a less wind noise exposed location for the microphone orifice is used, even if this will result in lower signal at noise ratio. Killion et al. disclose the use of extra added means on the shell in order to dampen the effect of wind exposure to the microphone openings, which will result in both bigger and less attractive hearing aids. There is no disclosure in Killion et al. which teaches placing the microphone orifice in a location on the hearing aid casing or shell where the wind exposure is low and without use of any further means. The present invention combines such a location of a microphone orifice with means for detecting the level of wind noise as well as means for selecting the desired signal to be amplified.

The examiner's rejection against claim 6 should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Richard H. Tushin  
Registration No. 27,297  
Franklin Square, Third Floor West  
1300 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3353  
(202) 906-8680